Radiation emergency response centres

1589. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up a network of radiation emergency response centres in various parts of the country to deal with nuclear emergency situations;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the extent to which such centres has been able to obtain its objectives so far;

(d) whether Government proposes to set up some more such centres during the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The ERCs are developed for preparedness of response to any nuclear and radiological emergencies affecting the public domain, The ERCs will also provide appropriate advice to the administration/local security agencies regarding; the counter/rescue measures etc., required in the presence of any radiation field/contamination in public domain either due to any accident or by deliberate acts.

The emergency response centres are having various radiation monitoring systems for the quick assessment of the radiological status by the Emergency Response Teams (ERTs) comprising of radiation safety experts of DAE.

Additionally these centres are being utilized for training of the First responders from NDRF (National Disaster Response Force).

(c) The Centres are kept in readiness with systems for response. Though there was no radiation emergency situation, the emergency response teams (ERTs) from Mumbai ERC, Jaipur ERC, Kolkata ERC, Chennai ERC, Hyderabad ERC have responded for monitoring and advised for suspected presence of radioactivity in public domain.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Department of Atomic Energy is planning to setup another four centres during XI Five Year Plan at the following locations:

1. Orissa Sand Complex (OSCOM), Orissa.
2. Indian Rare Earths Limited, Manavalakurichi
3. Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad
4. Naval Base, Visakhapattanam.

Apart from these, training centres of NDRFs and Defence Forces are being considered for expansion of this network.